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U.S.S. DETROIT'S DAILY NEWS

MAY 20, 1945

# JAPS PULL "SLEEPER PLAY" AT OKINAWA

OKINAWA -- A GREAT ARTILLERY DUEL FLARED ALONG THE OKINAWA BATTLE LINE TODAY AS TENTH ARMY FORCES SLUGGED THEIR WAY INTO THREE JAPANESE BASTIONS OF NAHA, SHURI AND YONABARU.

THE UNITED PRESS SAID FRONT DISPATCHES INDICATED AMERICAN ADVANCE UNITS NOW WERE BATTLING INSIDE SHURI AND YONABARU AS WELL AS IN NAHU WHERE MARINES OF THE SIXTH DIVISION WERE EXPANDING HARD WON BRIDGEHEADS ACROSS THE ASATO RIVER.

THE AMERICANS WERE NOT MAKING BIG ADVANCES ANYWHERE. FIERCELY RESISTING JAPANESE, SUPPORTED BY THE HEAVIEST CONCENTRATION OF ARTILLERY EVER USED BY THE ENEMY IN THE PACIFIC, HELD AMERICAN GAINS TO YARDS AND FEET. JAPANESE ARTILLERY WAS MASSED ON HIGH GROUND IN THE REAR OF NAHA, SHURI AND YONABARU.

FIELD DISPATCHES INDICATED THE BATTLE FOR NAHA WAS APPROACHING CLIMACTIC FURY.

A UNITED PRESS CORRESPONDENT, WILLIAM F. TYREE, SAID JAPANESE DEFENDERS OF NAHA ATTEMPTED TO DUPE MARINE PATROLS WHICH CROSSED ASATO IN ADVANCE OF THE MAIN THRUST BY PERMITTING THEM TO ROAM THE INNER CITY UNMOLESTED FOR AS LONG AS FIVE HOURS.

WHEN THE MAIN AMERICAN FORCES STRUCK ACROSS THE RIVER THE JAPANESE "OPENED UP WITH EVERYTHING THEY HAD AND THE FIGHT WAS ON."

WRECKAGE OF CONCRETE BUILDINGS IN NAHA OFFERED EXCELLENT DEFENS POSITIONS OF WHICH THE JAPANESE WERE REPORTED TAKING FULL ADVANTAGE. MARINES WERE "PINNED TO MANY POSITIONS" AND ONLY LIMITED AMOUNTS OF EQUIPMENT HAD CROSSED THE ASATO RIVER.

THREE OTHER MARINE AND ARMY DIVISIONS MACHINE-GUNNED AND BAYONETTED THEIR WAY DEEPER INTO THE DEFENSES OF SHURI, IN CENTRAL OKINAWA, AND YONABARU, ON THE EAST COAST.

THE FIRST MARINE DIVISION BROKE INTO THE VILLAGE OF ISHIMI, FOL HUNDRED YARDS NORTH EAST OF SHURI IN A SURPRISE ATTACK WITHOUT ARTILLERY PREPARATION. STRONG POSITIONS WHICH HAD BEEN STALLING THE SOUTHWARD DRIVE IN THIS SECTOR WERE OVERRUN.

NINETY-SIXTH DIVISION TROOPS WERE STORMING YONABARU.

# TRAPS TIGHTEN IN PHILIPPINES

MANILA -- AMERICAN DOUGHBOYS TIGHTENED THREE TRAPS ON PHILIPPINE BATTLE FRONTS FRIDAY AS THEY SOUGHT TO GAIN COMPLETE CONTROL OF MANILA'S WATER SUPPLY SOURCES AND TAKE ANOTHER IMPORTANT AIRFIELD ON MINDANAO ISLAND.

GENERAL MACARTHUR'S FRIDAY COMMUNIQUE SAID YANKS OF MAJOR MARTIN'S 31ST DIVISION ADVANCED A HALF-DOZEN MILES NORTHWARD ALONG MINDANAO'S MAIN CENTRAL HIGHWAY AND REACHED THE OUTSKIRTS OF VALENCIA, A TOWN LESS THAN TWO MILES FROM A MAJOR AIRFIELD IN THE SECTOR.

## (BULLETIN)

MANILA - YANKS HAVE SCORED TWO BIG VICTORIES IN THE PHILIPPINES WITH THE CAPTURE OF THE VITAL IPO DAM ON LUZON AND THE VALENCIA AIRDROMES ON MINDANAO.

THE DAM PROVIDING WATER SUPPLY FOR MANILA WAS TAKEN INTACT BUT WATER WILL NOT BE AVAILABLE IMMEDIATELY BECAUSE THE JAPS STILL CONTROL SECTIONS OF THE AQUEDUCT ROUTE.

VALENCIA AND TWO AIRDROMES ON MINDANAO FELL TO YANKS OF THE 31ST DIVISION, WHICH IS NOW WITHIN 14 MILES OF MALAYBAYA, CAPITAL OF BUKIDNON PROVINCE. AMERICAN PLANES ARE ALREADY USING THE VALENCIA AIR STRIPS.

## MORE DETAILS ON FRANKLIN BOMBING

ABOARD A UNITED STATES SHIP -- FOLLOWING ARE EXCERPTS FROM A STORY BY ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER ALVIN S MCCOY, ONLY CORRESPONDENT ABOARD THE AIRCRAFT CARRIER U.S.S. FRANKLIN WHEN IT WAS HIT OFF THE JAPANESE COAST.

"THE ENEMY LAUNCHED HIS BOMBS AT THE PRECISE MOMENT WHEN THEY WOULD CAUSE THE MOST DESTRUCTION. IT NEVER HAD HAPPENED AND PROBABLY WILL NEVER HAPPEN AGAIN.....THE CREW WAS NOT AT THEIR BATTLE STATION AT THE TIME OF THE STRIKE. MANY MEN WERE AT BREAKFAST; OTHERS, DOGTIRED, WERE IN THEIR BUNKS.....FIRE AND EXPLOSIONS CONTINUED AND AT 11 A.M., FOUR HOURS AFTER THE ATTACK, A GIGANTIC EXPLOSION IN THE STERN ROCKED THE WHOLE SHIP.....CAPTAIN GEHRES, WHO WOULD NOT GIVE UP HIS SHIP, AND HIS SMALL REMAINING CREW BROUGHT THE FIRES UNDER CONTROL, WORKING FOR NEARLY FIVE HOURS AS THE FRANKLIN LAY DEAD, STRUGGLING TO GET THE FLAMES UNDER CONTROL.....BEFORE THE FRANKLIN CAME TO LIFE AGAIN AND SHOOK OFF THE TOW LINES OF FRIENDLY SHIPS SHE DRIFTED TO WITHIN 38 MILES OF THE JAPANESE HOMELAND OF SHIKOKU."

(A NEW YORK STORY JUST RECEIVED INDICATES THAT THE FRANKLIN REACHED PORT ON APRIL 16TH.)

## AUSSIES CONTROL TARAKAN

AUSTRALIANS ON TARAKAN ISLAND, OFF BORNEO, REACHED THE EAST COAST AND ALLIES NOW CONTROL ALL MAJOR INSTALLATIONS AND OBJECTIVES. ONLY AN ISLAND MOPUP REMAINS. ON NEW GUINEA, OTHER AUSTRALIANS ADVANCED TWO MILES MORE EAST OF WEWAK TO WITHIN ONE-HALF MILE OF BORAM AIRFIELD IN A CLEANUP OF BY-PASSED JAPS.

## MORE JAPS ON THE RUN

CALCUTTA - THOUSANDS OF BEDRAGGLED JAPS IN POOR PHYSICAL CONDITION HAVE FALLEN BACK TOWARD MOULMEIN, WHICH THEY CAPTURED IN 1942 IN EMBARKING ON THE CONQUEST OF BURMA.

CHINESE HEADQUARTERS - CHINESE PURSUED THE JAPS, WHO WANTED CHIHKIANG, TOWARD PAOCHING AND FIGHTING CONTINUED OUTSIDE FOOCOW ON THE EAST COAST. CHINESE TROOPS ENTERED THE CITY, STAYED FIVE DAYS AND THEN WITHDREW UNDER PRESSURE OF JAP REINFORCEMENTS.

## MY, MY! HOW TIMES CHANGE!

SAN FRANCISCO - FOLLOWING ARE SOME INTERESTING QUOTES FROM RADIO TOKYO BROADCASTS:

MAY 20, 1942 - "ALLIED FORCES MUST EITHER RETREAT TO HINTERLAND OF AUSTRALIA OR GO BACK TO THE U. S. OTHERWISE THERE WILL BE ONE WAY LEFT TO THEM - TOTAL ANNIHILATION."

MAY 20, 1944 - "INITIATIVE IN THE PACIFIC STRATEGY LIES DEFINITELY IN JAPANESE HANDS."

MAY 21ST, 1942 - "THE ENEMY IS CARRYING ON GUERILLA WAR AND WAR OF PROPAGANDA."

MAY 21, 1943 - "UNDER THE ABLE LEADERSHIP OF PREMIER MUSSOLINI, THE ENTIRE ITALIAN PEOPLE - ARMED FORCES AND CIVILIANS - WILL MARCH ON AND ON UNTIL FINAL VICTORY."

MAY 22, 1943 - "THE ALLIED PEOPLE HAVE BEEN PLUNGED INTO DESPAIR AT THE IRREVOCABLE KNOWLEDGE OF JAPANESE SUPERIORITY."

MAY 22, 1943 - "THE IMPERIAL NAVY IS PLACED ON A SOLID FOUNDATION\*\*\*\*AND KNOWING ITS IMPREGNABLE STRUCTURE IS NOW STANDING ON A FOUNDATION OF INVINCIBILITY."

## MARSHAL TITO MAKES REQUESTS

YUGOSLAVIA'S MARSHAL TITO HAS SENT NOTES TO AMERICAN AND BRITISH GOVERNMENTS ON TRIESTE, BUT THE CONTENTS OF THE REPLIES WERE NOT AVAILABLE. IT WAS CONSIDERED LIKELY, HOWEVER, THAT THE REPLIES SUGGESTED A COMPROMISE SIMILAR TO THAT PROPOSED ON THE OCCUPATION OF AUSTRIAN CARINTHA.